REMARKS

This Submission supplements the Response filed June 17, 2008, and adds further amendments and arguments thereto.

Status of the Claims

The claims are presented herein as presented in the Response filed June 17, 2008. Claim 4 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 3-5, 8, 10-13 and 28-36 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

A Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 is submitted concurrently herewith addressing the rejection of claims 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the Declaration by Dr. James A. DiCarlo.

At least for the reasons presented in the Declaration, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is overcome and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 12 and 31 recite "a pressure between 1 and 40 atmospheres". The Office Action stated on pages 3 and 4 that "the atmosphere and temperature are important parameters to control when coating the fibers (Col. 3, lines 11ff [sic]). A person of ordinary skill in the art can easily envisage that flow rate, pressure, temperature and holding time are parameters that would affect the reaction to form a BN coating." However, the only pressure discussed in Sacks is one atmosphere or less, and sometimes completely pressureless (see

column 2, lines 47-50, and column 4, lines 19 and 20). As such, while pressure may be varied in Sacks, it appears that any variation in pressure **reduces** the pressure below one atmosphere. On the other hand, claims 5, 12 and 31 recite a pressure between 1 and 40 atmospheres. As such, the pressure is **increased** above one atmosphere in some embodiments. Sacks not only fails to teach or suggest this pressure, but further explicitly teaches away from an increased pressure.

Claims 31 and 36 recite a "high purity nitrogen gas". The Office Action stated on page 4 that DiCarlo et al. teaches that "the gas is inert or nitrogen gas". However, while DiCarlo et al. discusses that nitrogen may be used, DiCarlo et al. is silent as to using a high purity nitrogen gas, as claimed. Applicant submits that impurities in the nitrogen gas presented problems in the realization of DiCarlo et al. More specifically, O_2 contamination hindered the realization of properly oriented BN. Accordingly, in some embodiments of the present invention, a high purity nitrogen gas was used to overcome this complication.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 12 and 31 further patentably distinguish over the cited art for the reasons presented above.

Conclusion

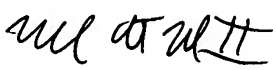
For at least the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-5, 8, 10-13 and 28-36, comprising all of the currently pending claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition

for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132
RCE
Petition for Extension of Time
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